

Exhibit 62

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

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Youths' heroin use rises

White, suburban Ohioans first hooked on prescriptions

By Rick Aron
Times staff writer

Heroin abuse among white youth and young suburban adults is increasing in Ohio, according to a new report released Wednesday.

The report, which detailed drug trends in the state, attributed the increase to more young people becoming hooked first on prescription drugs.

For some youth, they start out with prescription drugs and

To read the entire report, go online to: ohio.com/stories/stories/080814/08081401.htm

It's not a strong enough signal and then they go to heroin," said Amanda Grant-Barnes, a public program for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

The semi-annual report was

released by the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network, a research partnership of the state agency, Wright State University and the University of Akron. Researchers interview drug users, measure prevalence and use an assessment to determine the drug trends.

The analysis, which covered June 2007 to January 2008, was a mixed bag, according to officials. "There hasn't been a huge change in the drug scene," said Scott A. Alexander, director of the Institute for Health and Social Policy at the University of Akron.

Overall, heroin use — which now includes a spike in black heroin — has increased steadily over the last couple of years. Prescriptions

Photo: Ken Dwyer, A6

Massillon man who has dreamed of serving, signs papers at 39. Tuslaw High '08 grad can't wait to wear uniform



Daughter, dad are in the Army now

Teen leaves in fall for basic training, father to go in May

By Ken Dwyer
Times staff writer

MASSILLON — Like daughter, like father. Larry, 39, of Massillon has joined the 148th Transportation Company of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Eighteen-year-old Christopher, a 2006 graduate of Tuslaw High School, signed papers to follow.

"We are Army strong," she said. "I want to serve."

At 16, Larry is over the upper end of the age scale for Army recruits. The oldest one can be

when joining the Ohio Army National Guard is 21, according to a Guard spokesman.

The father of four and single, one of two had long dreamed of joining the Army.

"In May, I wanted to see if there was a chance," he said. After talking to a recruiter and learning that he wasn't too old

to, Larry decided to take action. Within a week, he had signed the papers.

"I don't want there to be any regrets," he said.

The Massillon teenager and father joined the 148th Transportation Company, based at the Akron Center Airman in Akron. The unit moved in May 2008.

Photo: Ken Dwyer, A7

Massive blackout could be repeated

Power providers warn capacity margin thin, new plants are needed

By Mark Williams
Times staff writer

COLUMBUS — Five years after the worst blackout in North American history, the energy industry's biggest power providers say the problems that caused the 2003 outage are still with us.

More than 50 million people have largely been re-energized, but they face the long-term capacity to meet demand that is even larger and more demanding.

Industry experts back Monday and say there is even more resistance to building new plants than in the decade after

the 2003 outage. "We're not seeing the same level of investment in new capacity as we did in the decade after 2003," said Michael Morris, chairman and chief executive of American Electric Power, which runs the nation's largest electricity transmission system.

Morris said nuclear energy, which is the only source of baseload power, is still the only option for meeting the long-term capacity to meet demand that is even larger and more demanding.

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Today's weather

Forecast for today:
with a
breeze from the
west.

80° High 57° Low
Forecast Page B6

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McCain floats idea of Ridge on ticket

John McCain on Wednesday floated the idea of putting a running mate who supports abortion rights and said former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was worth considering.

"I think that the pro-life position is one of the important aspects of the Republican Party," he said. "Tom Ridge is one of the great leaders and he happens to be pro-life. And I don't think that that would necessarily hurt Tom Ridge out."

McCain said he was not serious about putting Ridge on the ticket, but he said he was "open to the idea."

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Russians violate truce with Georgia

Soldiers are spotted hour outside capital, U.S. pushes aid package

By Christopher Tomlinson
Times staff writer

OUTSIDE GORI, GEORGIA — Russian military convoys moved through a strategically important town in Georgia on Wednesday, violating a truce that was supposed to end the fighting over two pro-Russian breakaway regions.

An Associated Press reporter saw dozens of Russian tanks and armored vehicles leaving the city of Gori, more than 20 miles north of the disputed region of South Ossetia and border of a key highway that divides Georgia in two, and moving deeper into Georgia.

Soldiers were at least 100 yards from the city, but they were going in "tanks," the reporter said. "The convoys moved south, toward the government of Georgia and

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Youths' heroin use rises

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By Rick Armon
Beacon Journal staff writer

Heroin abuse among white youth and young suburban adults is increasing in Ohio, according to a new report released Wednesday.

The report, which detailed drug trends in the state, attributed the increase to more young people becoming hooked first on prescription drugs.

"For some youth, they start off with prescription drug abuse and

To read the entire report, go online to:

<http://www.odadas.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODADAS/ODADASPrimary.aspx?Page=4&TopicRelationID=98&Content=5402>.

it's not a strong enough opiate and then they go to heroin," said Amanda Conn Starner, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

The semi-annual report was

released by the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network, a research partnership of the state agency, Wright State University and the University of Akron. Researchers interview drug users, treatment providers and law en-

forcement to determine the drug trends.

The analysis, which covered June 2007 to January 2008, was a mixed bag, according to officials.

"There hasn't been a huge change in the drug scene," said Sonia A. Alemagno, director of the Institute for Health and Social Policy at the University of Akron.

Overall heroin use - which now includes a spike in black tar heroin - has remained steady over the last couple of years. Prescription drug abuse combined with

Please see **Drugs, A6**

Drugs

Heroin easy to obtain
in Akron, officials say

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alcohol use among youth and senior citizens also has remained consistent.

"We're still having a problem with people going to their medicine cabinets and abusing the drugs that are there," Conn Starner said.

Meanwhile, there's been no significant change in marijuana or cocaine use, which remains high.

The good news is that abuse of methamphetamines and OxyContin is declining because of a lack of street availability, the report said.

Counselors at Oriana House Inc., a nonprofit treatment provider in Akron, agreed with the report's findings, especially concerning heroin use.

"Clients at a younger age - as young as high school students - are getting involved with prescription opioids and then they move up to OxyContin, but it becomes cost prohibitive and they move to heroin because it's cheaper," said Mike Burkett, administrative services coordinator for Oriana House.

Heroin also is readily available in Akron.

It used to be that 75 percent of clients at Oriana House's A.D.M. Crisis Center checked in for alcohol abuse, but now 50 percent are being treated for opiates, which include morphine, heroin and codeine.

The younger generation has been exposed to more prescription drugs, whether it's pain medication or a drug to control attention deficit disorder, Alemagno said. Because of that exposure, members of the "pill generation" don't recognize themselves as drug abusers when they are taking prescription medication, she said.

"Even their parents were raised to think that anything can be fixed with a pill," Alemagno said.

The Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network report also identified drug trends by region. In addition to heroin, other drugs such as crack, cocaine, oxycodone, hydrocodone and benzodiazepines can easily be found in Akron. The community also is seeing an increase in the hallucinogenic drug Ecstasy.